

— D.E. Harvard #2 — Review of Themes

(1)

Nuc arms race: a case study for psych. theory (1)

Danger of sanction of small-scale use of nucs, seen as successful (e.g. if it had happened in Falklands) p. L-8

Intolerable moral policy, à la Teller: destroying all of life on Earth.

PP - no justification offered for 7½ million tons of bombs, 50,000 U.S. dead, 2 million VN dead. (p. 14)

Def. of massacre, just war theory pp. 15-17

Intl. law, UN resolutions - pp. 18 - 20

Strategic

Aerial firebombing - pp. 20-21

The impotence of current policies -

pp. 22-23 (moral systems failing)

~~pp. 22~~

23- Milgram - Pentagon behav. was part of widespread human behav. Milgram implications: Americans will do anything to anyone

Lilienthal quote - p. 27 - ethical limits of warfare cast aside by A-bombs

Shift in scale of destruction, w/ H bomb - 29-30

What are the Solvents that dissolve ordinary human restraints against fantastically murderous & reckless behavior? pp. 31-32

One aspect: almost limitless obed. to organizational authority.

(2)

pp. 38-40 Shift to bombing civilians came after unwilling soldiers' deaths that hadn't seen to affect the course of the war.
"There's got to be a better way."

(Q) Russians' awfulness used to justify unlimited awfulness on our part.

Rage: seen as a viable justification for practically anything. (p. 45)

"Ask a proponent of F.U. option to define for you exactly when he ~~is~~ would instate F.U. of nuclear weapons. (p. 46)

Persking II's not a true counter to SS-20's - they make SS-20 use more, not less, likely. (p. 47) (Bundeswehr officer)

p. 49 - No previous installation of weapons has led to reduction in ^{comparable} weapons of other side.

pp. 49-53 Instability a desirable feature being deliberately chosen to an extent - makes opponent wary of sparking crises which could get out of control.

Leaders commonly underestimate the level of violence needed to do the job, also the other side's willingness to retaliate.

pp. 53-55

pp. 56-60 Psychology of leaders' willingness to massacre. Kelman: leaders see themselves as serving a cause, as →

representing an org., just as the others
feel subordinate to it. They have a job
to do, and they have no choice but to
do what they are doing. "I have no choice
but to give these orders." Relevant
precedents are seen as justification. Revenge

p. 61-62 How to break the scapegoating
cycle? Fear of culpability - whose heads
will roll?

p. 63 - Nation-states formed in relation to
external phenomenon. There is something
in the nature of that formation which
divests its members of responsibility.

p. 64 - Argentina - ~~the~~ leaders fear relinquishing
power; being held accountable for massacre.
(Amnesty needed?)

p. 65 - Germans & Japanese refer to the
works they did. (And some Americans
learned similarly from VN)